WHAT IS CLAIMED

signal obtained by subjecting signals on a plurality of channels to time division multiplexing is inputted, comprising:

storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing a compression rate for each of the channels;

compression means for performing, every time the signal corresponding to one field is inputted, compression processing using the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage means; and

compression rate control means for updating, every time the signal corresponding to one field has been compressed by the compression means, the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage means to such a value that an amount of coding after the compression approaches a predetermined target amount of coding on the basis of the amount of coding after the compression and the target amount of coding.

ADDAD